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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

**Memorandum of Conversation**

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DATE: November 18, 1958

SUBJECT: Germany and Berlin

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Paul Koht, Norwegian Ambassador

Mr. Foy D. Kohler, Deputy Asst. Secretary, EUR

fdk

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During the course of a general conversation the Norwegian Ambassador referred to the current German problem following Khrushchev's statements on Allied withdrawal from Berlin. While emphasizing that his Government remained firmly committed to the NATO approved position on Berlin, he personally sometimes wondered whether the time had not past come for drastic and dramatic change of approach, including recognition of East Germany, to make arrangements to safeguard the Allied position in Berlin and the like. We might be better off than we are now, he thought, when practically all the cards are in the hands of the Russians.

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